

Message Text

PAGE 01 PRETOR 00002 011754Z
ACTION IO-14

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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8688
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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 PRETORIA 4550

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (YOUNG, ANDREW)
SUBJ: AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S INTERVIEW WITH DIE TRANSVALER

REF: JOHANNESBURG 2344

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S
INTERVIEW WITH ' DIE TRANSVALER'S' EDITOR WILLEM DE KLERK.
THE ENGLISH TEXT WAS PROVIDED BY 'DIE TRANSVALER' FROM ITS
TAPES OF THE INTERVIEW. THE AUGUST 31 EDITION CARRIED
SYNOPSIS OF INTERVIEW AND SEPARATE EDITORIAL BY DE KLERK
TRANSMITTED BY SEPTTEL.

BEGIN TEXT

MR. AMBASSADOR, THE FIRST QUESTION I WANT TO PUT TO YOU IS WHAT
DO YOU THINK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT'S NEW CONSTITUTIONAL PROPOSALS
FOR INCORPORATING COLORED AND ASIANS IN THE GOVERNMENT MACHINERY
SYSTEM OF THE REPUBLIC?

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A. WELL I THINK IT DEPENDS ON THE INTENTION, I THINK THAT SOME
PEOPLE HAVE SAID THAT.. THIS IS AN ATTEMPT TO TRI-PARTITE THE
GOVERNMENT. I THINK IF THAT IS THE INTENTION THAT IT IS BAD. IF
IT IS THE INTENTION TO, IF IT IS ONE STEP IN THE DIRECTION OF FULL
PARTICIPATION AND IF AFTER COLOREDS AND ASIANS ARE INCLUDED THERE
BEGINS TO BE INCLUSION OF BLACKS, I THINK IT IS QUITE A COMMENDABLE
STEP AND A STEP VERY MUCH IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

Q. DO YOU DIFFERENTIATE BETWEEN THE POSITIONS OF SOUTH AFRICA AND
RHODESIA, AND IF SO, IN WHAT WAY?

A. WELL, I THINK THAT RHODESIA IS STILL A COLONIAL SITUATION AND IS IN REBELLION AGAINST THE BRITISH CROWN. THEY ARE SETTLERS AND IN A SENSE REBELLED IN AN ATTEMPT TO DISRUPT LEGITIMATE CONSTITUTIONAL PROCESS WHICH WOULD HAVE PROVED IN THE LONG RUN TO BE IN THEIR INTEREST AS WELL. I MEAN RHODESIA COULD HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL NATIONS IN AFRICA TODAY HAD THEY FOLLOWED THE PATH OF GARFIELD TODD, PRIME MINISTER WHO SAID SOMETHING LIKE 20 YEARS AGO, IN 15 YEARS THERE WOULD BE.. IF THERE HAD JUST BEEN A WILLINGNESS TO LET THE PROCESS EVOLVE RATIONALLY AND GRADUALLY, RHODESIA COULD HAVE BEEN A POWERFUL, INDEPENDENT FORCE AND PERHAPS EVEN STRONGER ECONOMICALLY THAN SOUTH AFRICA. THE FACT THAT THEY DID REBEL AND ESSENTIALLY BECAME AN INTERNATIONAL PARIAH-- HAS MADE IT VERY DIFFICULT FOR THEM TO DO ANYTHING. NOW I THINK THEY HAVE ANOTHER CHANCE AND I HOPE THEY DON'T LET IT PASS. I THINK SOUTH AFRICA IS QUITE DIFFERENT AND I DON'T NEED TO TELL THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA THE HISTORIC DIFFERENCES BUT THERE IS ALSO A SENSE IN WHICH RSA TODAY CONFRONTS THE SAME OPTIONS WHICH WERE OPEN TO RHODESIA IN 1965, AND WHICH THEY MISSED. I JUST HOPE THAT THEY DON'T MISS THEM. WE SING A HYMN IN MY CHURCH: " SINNER PLEASE DON'T LET THIS HARVEST PASS." I THINK THAT IT IS A RELEVANT HYM FOR THE SOUTH AFRICAN SITUATION.

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Q. MR. AMBASSADOR, ARE YOU FULLY AWARE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTION, THAT IS ON GOVERNMENT LEVEL, TO MAKE THE NECESSARY CHANGES THAT WILL BE ACCEPTABLE FOR EVERYBODY ON AN ORDERLY AND EVOLUTIONARY BASIS?

A. NO , I GUESS I AM NOT. I TALK WITH SOUTH AFRICA'S LEADERSHIP QUITE A BIT BUT I AM AFRAID THAT NORMALLY BECAUSE OF MY POSITION, WE END UP IN DEFENSIVE CONVERSATIONS RATHER THAN IN POSITIVE CONVERSATIONS AND SO I DON'T KNOW AS MUCH OF SOUTH AFRICA AS I SHOULD BUT I WOULD CERTAINLY APPRECIATE KNOWING THE INTENTIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SOUTH AFRICA. I HOPE THAT WHENEVER YOUR AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON HAS THE TIME TO MEET THAT WE WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY. I AM ALWAYS AVAILABLE. EVEN FROM MY DAYS AS A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, WHENEVER THERE WERE SOUTH AFRICANS VISITING IN THE UNITED STATES I ALWAYS MADE TIME TO TALK WITH THEM, BECAUSE THERE IS A STRANGE FASCINATION, I THINK WE HAVE A LOT IN COMMON, AND I GUESS IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO JUST IGNORE SOUTH AFRICA AS THOUGH IT DOES NOT EXIST. I AM INTENSELY INTERESTED AND I WANT TO SEE THINGS GO ON HERE IN A JUST AND ORDERLY WAY.

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UNCLAS FINAL SECTION 2 OF 2 PRETORIA 4550

FOR AMBASSADOR YOUNG

1. IS IT TRUE THAT THE UNITED STATES WANTS TO STRANGLE SOUTH AFRICA ECONOMICALLY.. THROUGH THE UNITED NATIONS?

A. NO, IN FACT WE'RE ALWAYS ACCUSED. IN FACT I JUST LEFT THE CONFERENCE IN LAGOS WHERE I WAS CASTIGATED FOR A SOLID WEEK AS BEING A REPRESENTATIVE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S AS AN EXTENSION OF IMPERIALISM, AND ALL KINDS OF OTHER NAMES THAT I WAS CALLED. MY OWN STATEMENTS AT THE CONFERENCE WERE CERTAINLY NOT A DEFENSE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S POLICY BUT AN ATTEMPT TO BE REASONABLE ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA IN AN ATMOSPHERE THAT I THINK WAS FULL OF RHETORIC. I WAS EVEN IN FACT ASKED WHY WOULD NOT THE UNITED STATES TAKE UP ARMS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA TO CHANGE YOUR POLICY AND I FOUND MYSELF ALMOST ALL WEEK LONG ON THE DEFENSIVE BECAUSE BLACK AFRICANS OF THE NORTH FELT THAT THE U.S. WAS IN COMPLICITY WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN THEIR POLICIES. I MUST CONFESS THAT IT HELPED ME TO JUSTIFY MY OWN POSITION THAT YOUR PRIME MINISTER AND YOUR FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE CRITICIZED OUR POLICIES SO MUCH. IT PUT US SOMEWHERE IN THE MIDDLE AND MAYBE GAVE ME A LITTLE MANOEUVERING ROOM IN WHICH I COULD SURVIVE POLITICALLY.

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Q. BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SO-CALLED PUNITIVE MEASURES WHICH ARE PLANNED AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA?

A. FOR ATLEAST A DECADE THAT I KNOW ABOUT, EVERY YEAR IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THERE ARE ALL KINDS OF PUNITIVE MEASURES CALLED FOR AND YET IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS, SOME OF WHICH I APPROVE OF AND SOME OF WHICH I DON'T. THE UNITED STATES JOINED IN VETOING THEM AND I WILL PROBABLY HAVE TO CAST A VETO ON BEHALF OF SOUTH AFRICA ONE OF THESE DAYS. I REALLY REGRET HAVING TO DO IT. I WISH WE COULD HAVE A MORE COOPERATIVE APPROACH AND MORE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. I WISH WE COULD HAVE MORE PROGRESS IN SOUTH AFRICA THAT COULD BE UNDERSTAND-ABLE TO THE REST OF THE WORLD, BUT I DON'T KNOW THAT IT HELPS TO PRACTICE THE KIND OF PUNITIVE MEASURES THAT ARE ADVOCATED. BUT IF SOME TIME

THOSE MEASURES MAY BE CALLED FOR, IT WOULD BE WITH A GREAT DEAL OF REGRET AND RELUCTANCE THAT I THINK THE UNITED STATES RESORTED TO THEM.

Q. AND THE LAST QUESTION SIR. WHY DOESN'T THE UNITED STATES FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER AN AGREEMENT TO SUPPLY SOUTH AFRICA WITH URANIUM FOR RESEARCH PURPOSES?

A. I THINK BECAUSE PRESIDENT CARTER HAS GONE ON RECORD AGAINST THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, WE SERIOUSLY JEOPARDIZED OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH BRAZIL AND WITH WEST GERMANY OVER THE QUESTION OF NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION-- PAKISTAN AND FRANCE AS WELL. AND, I THINK THAT AS A NUCLEAR PHYSICIST HE HIMSELF IS CONVINCED THAT THE SPREAD OF ENRICHED URANIUM, WHICH IS CAPABLE OF PRODUCING ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS, IS NOT IN ANYBODY'S INTEREST. I THINK THAT BECAUSE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S BELEAGUERED POSITION THERE PROBABLY IS A SENSE IN WHICH SOME PEOPLE MIGHT THINK THAT THE
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PRESENCE OF A NUCLEAR BOMB WOULD BE SECURITY. I THINK SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS ARE NOT MILITARY. SOUTH AFRICA'S PROBLEMS ARE ESSENTIALLY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC. INTERNALLY THEY ARE SOCIAL AND POLITICAL. THE EXTERNAL PROBLEM IS ESSENTIALLY ECONOMIC AND THE PRESENCE OF AN ATOMIC BOMB IN SOUTH AFRICA WOULD ONLY SERIOUSLY EXACERBATE HER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND WOULD CREATE AN EVEN GREATER SENSE OF DESPERATION INTERNALLY. THE U.S. GOVERNMENT HAS NOT TAKEN AN ANTI-SOUTH AFRICAN COURSE. THAT IS AN ANTI-PROLIFERATION COURSE.

Q. WAS THAT THE INTENTION WITH THE RECENT ATTACK ON SOUTH AFRICA CONCERNING ATOMIC TESTS TOO?

A. I DON'T THINK WE ATTACKED SOUTH AFRICA. I THINK WE WERE VERY GENEROUS WITH SOUTH AFRICA. I MEAN IN THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM (LAGOS) THAT WAS IN SESSION, WE MADE NO MENTION OF NUCLEAR TESTING AND IN FACT EVEN TOOK EXCEPTION TO THE ELEMENT IN THE DECLARATION WHICH WOULD HAVE RECOMMENDED TOTAL NON-COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA IN NUCLEAR AFFAIRS. THERE MAY BE SOME MEDICAL ITEMS IN WHICH NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY MIGHT BE SHARED AND WE WOULD PROBABLY BE WILLING IF WE WERE SURE THAT THERE WAS NO MILITARY PURPOSE ATTACHED, BE WILLING TO DO WHAT WE COULD IN TERMS OF THOSE KINDS OF HUMANITARIAN USES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. BUT, NOT IN ANYTHING THAT IS DESTRUCTIVE OR POTENTIALLY DESTRUCTIVE. I THINK WE JUST REFUSED TO PARTICIPATE BUT WE HAVE NOT IN ANYWAY ATTACKED.

MR. DE KLERK: THANK YOU VERY MUCH MR. YOUNG. I APPRECIATE IT VERY MUCH.. END TEXT. BOWDLER

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